

## **TOOTH SHADE SCAN SYSTEM AND METHOD**

### **Abstract**

5     A tooth shade scan system is provided that identifies tooth shades for a  
patient's tooth. An electronic database of tooth shade information for a shade guide may be  
stored. The database may include shade information based on tooth regions (e.g., the incisal,  
central, and cervical). A system operator may be shown an image of a patient's tooth on  
display equipment such as a computer monitor. An application running on the system may  
display dividers that the operator can manipulate to divide the image of the patient's tooth  
10    into regions. The regions may correspond to regions for which specific tooth shade  
information is available in the database. Values representative of a limited number of color  
characteristics for a region as a whole may be determined from the image. Corresponding  
categories of color characteristics may exist in the database, which is then used to identify  
tooth shades by region for the patient's tooth.

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